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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,157	03/19/2001	Eugene P. Marsh	150.00930102	2941

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EXAMINER

MALDONADO, JULIO J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2823

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ATTACHMENT TO ADVISORY ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 01/28/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, "...Summerfelt fails to teach pooling of a conductive metal or platinum layer...". According to the specification (page 5, lines 25 – 29), "...pools" or "pooling" refers to a phenomenon that is believed to be similar to non-wetting of a surface wherein the binding energy of the material deposited (e.g., platinum, ruthenium) is much greater to itself than to the surface which is deposited (e.g., silicon, BPSG, etc.) so that "islands of the deposited material form...". Having this in mind, Summerfelt (Fig.11a-b and column 8, lines 25 – 40, for example) teach depositing 30Å of platinum on a surface. Then, an annealing process is performed of the surface where the platinum is deposited. During this process, platinum nucleuses become smaller and eventually disappear while larger more stable nuclei grow at the expense of the smaller nuclei. Therefore, Summerfelt inherently teaches pooling of platinum on an exposed region of the substrate assembly.

Conclusion

2. Papers related to this application may be submitted directly to Art Unit 2823 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Art Unit 2823 via the Art Unit 2823 Fax Center located in Crystal Plaza 4, room 3C23. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (15 November


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1989). The Art Unit 2823 Fax Center number is **(703) 305-3432**. The Art Unit 2823 Fax Center is to be used only for papers related to Art Unit 2823 applications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Julio J. Maldonado** at **(703) 306-0098** and between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday or by e-mail via julio.maldonado@uspto.gov. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri, can be reached on (703) 306-2794.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **Group 2800 Receptionist** at **(703) 308-0956**.


JMR
2/5/03


George Fourson
Primary Examiner
2823



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